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NSC BRIEFING

USED
13 July 1954

15 JULY 54
PALESTINE TRUCE MACHINERY NEAR COLLAPSE

I. The Situation

A. New fighting on Israel's Jordanian, Syrian and Egyptian borders during past two weeks evidences near collapse of UN truce supervision organization.

1. Fighting in Jerusalem on 1 July ended only after 4th

cease-fire arranged by UN. Israeli and Jordanian army units involved. 9 killed. Holy places hit or endangered.

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2. On 30 June Israeli police boat [REDACTED] patrolling Lake

Tiberias fired on by Syrian shore battery. 2 killed, 5

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injured [REDACTED]

3. Israeli patrol and Egyptian outpost in Gaza strip battled on 10 July. Most recent of recurrent incidents. 6 killed.

B. This Situation Caused By:

1. Israeli discreditation of UN machinery: Israel has

been boycotting Israeli-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission;

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Israeli press

has accused UN observers of bias against Israel;/has

demanded removal of Hutchison, chairman of Israeli-

Jordanian commission, and UN chief observer Pennington.

*Relationship?
I-J is one of four
mixed armistice
commissions:
one for each
common border*

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2. Israeli aggressive border policy: Dayan told UN

official: "I will return fire with everything but atom

bomb and not necessarily confine it to the area from

which I am being fired on."

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3. High tension resulting from aggressiveness. In Jerusalem

Jordanian as well as Israeli civilians share military

tension which appears at times nearly uncontrollable.

Pattern of fighting was: Civilian rock-throwing-

sniping-army units in action.

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4. Jordan government has adopted a policy of "returning

fire."

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II. Expectations

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A. Continuing tension, new outbreaks, mutual ^{RE/}discriminations.

C. Arabs will continue demand that West discipline Israel. in

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1. Iraqi prime minister and foreign minister have separately recommended West proceed with UN-sponsored internationalization of Jerusalem. Israel, emotionally interested in Jerusalem, would not accept this. Arab insistence on this point might only raise more problems in UN.
2. Individual Arabs will continue cause trouble. Armies and governments may be pushed by civilian pressure and Israeli aggressiveness to adopt potentially explosive defensive policies. Responsible Arabs, however, aware of Israeli military superiority, will not seek war.

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